

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202232

45

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:APINKNEY:JLR

APPROVED BY EUR/NE:WABUELL

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

S/PRS - I. PERNICK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO, UR, SV

SUBJECT: SVALBARD: DREW MIDDLETON STORY

REF: OSLO'S 4168

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES REPORT ON REACTION TO DREW MIDDLETON ARTICLE. TO COMPLETE THE RECORD, THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS AFTER THE NOON BRIEFING ON SEPTEMBER 9.

2. QUOTE: STATUS OF THE SPITSBERGEN ISLAND GROUP.
QUESTION: IS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT PRESSING NORWAY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT NORWEGIAN-SOVIET RULE OF THE SPITSBERGEN ISLAND GROUP? WHAT IS GOING ON?

ANSWER: THE SPECIAL STATUS OF THE SPITSBERGEN ISLAND GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATY OF PARIS OF 1920, TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS AN ORIGINAL SIGNATORY. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND UNACCEPTABLE ANY CHANGE IN THAT STATUS, WHICH GRANTS TO NORWAY FULL AND ABSOLUTE

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PAGE 02 STATE 202232

SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ARCHIPELAGO, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION

THAT THE SIGNATORIES OF THE TREATY MAY CARRY OUT IN THE ISLAND GROUP WITHOUT IMPEDIMENT ALL MARITIME, INDUSTRIAL, MINING AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS ON A FOOTING OF ABSOLUTE EQUALITY. THE UNITED STATES WOULD EXPECT ALL OTHER SIGNATORIES SIMILARLY TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE TREATY.

QUESTION: BUT IS THE SOVIET UNION PRESSING THE NORWEGIANS?

ANSWER: THAT QUESTION SHOULD PROPERLY BE ADDRESSED TO THE NORWEGIANS. UNQUOTE.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER PRESS QUERIES ON THE MATTER SINCE THAT DATE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
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